

MATTAPOISETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION 2013 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

The Mattapoisett Conservation Commission is staffed by volunteer board members Chairman Peter Newton, Robert Rogers, Tom Copps, Michael King and Mary Lou Kelliher. Additionally the Commission has two part-time staff members: Conservation Agent Elizabeth Leidhold and Secretary Teresa Austin. The Conservation Commission wishes to thank long-time member Ken Dawicki for his many years of service to the town on the Commission, and wishes to welcome new member Mary Lou Kelliher.

In 1972 the Conservation Commission was given responsibility for administering the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131 section 40). The Conservation Commission is charged with implementing the Act through the Wetland Protection Regulations (MGL Chapter 131, section 40).

The Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act defines a wetland resource area as "...any bank, riverfront area, fresh water wetland, coastal wetland, beach, dune, flat, marsh, (wet) meadow or swamp bordering on the ocean or on any estuary, creek, river, stream, pond or lake, or any land under said waters or any land subject to tidal action, coastal storm flowage or flooding...."

In 2013 the Conservation Commission held a total of 22 hearings. Public hearings included 32 Notices of Intent applications, 3 Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation, 29 Requests for Determination of Applicability, and 20 Certificate of Compliances. Additionally the Commission acted on 4 Amended Order of Conditions, 2 After-the-fact Notices of Intent, 3 Enforcement Orders, and 1 Emergency Certification.

The majority of applications were for single family home improvements, however a number of municipal projects as well as business-related projects were approved by the Commission as well. Some of these projects included the development of the Mattapoisett Water Department's #2 Pumping Station, and roadway improvements in various locations including several areas within Mattapoisett village, Mattapoisett Neck, Brant Beach Road, and Cove Street. In addition the Commission reviewed and approved an application for the Solar Project on Tinkham Road and has been monitoring the new cell tower project on Route 6.

The Commission has recently applied for a grant from Department of Conservation and Recreation to enlarge a restrictive culvert on Mattapoisett Neck Road. The Commission has approved a Conservation Restriction for the "North Woods" property in partnership with the Mattapoisett Water and Sewer Department, and voted to support two LAND grant applications; one for land within the Nasketucket Bay watershed, and another in support of land acquisition within the Mattapoisett River Valley watershed area.

During the spring of 2013 Conservation Commission staff was involved with an educational program for the sixth grade in association with Old Hammondtown School (OHS) and the Mattapoisett Land Trust. The OHS sixth grade class helped to certify a vernal pool within Nasketucket State Park, and staff looks forward to working with the schools again in 2014.

Mattapoisett Conservation Commission is located on the second floor of the Town Hall, across from the Building Department.